

GoTriangle Board of Trustees,

It is with great disappointment that I write you today to resign as the chairman and member of the GoTransit Partners Board of Directors. My passion for the Durham/Orange Light Rail project had grown daily as I became more immersed in the project and its many moving parts. I had remained hopeful that if a few critical pieces could fall into place, we would be in a position to achieve our goals.

But my agreement to work on this project came prior to GoTriangle recently amending its plan and calling for the closure of the Blackwell Street intersection. The proposed closure puts at risk the difficult and remarkable work many people and organizations undertook over the last 25+ years as part of downtown Durham's nationally acclaimed renaissance. Those very real accomplishments are put in jeopardy by the newly altered transit plans that severely curtail pedestrian and vehicular access across the proposed and existing rail corridor. This would, undeniably, split downtown Durham into two distinct parts. Like the Triangle region itself, we are all better together than we are apart. This is basic urban planning. But more importantly, this is a basic community development philosophy.

Therefore, I have no option but to shift my focus on this project solely to the issues surrounding the downtown corridor. I simply cannot be in favor of any project that closes this critical artery to vehicular or pedestrian traffic, now or in the future. As such, it is impossible to continue working to raise funds for this project when I believe the negatives now far outweigh the positives. It was an honor to be appointed into such an important role. And, alongside so many talented colleagues, I worked hard for a time. I am not, by any means, happy to be in this position. But I am.

I hope you understand.

With respect,

Michael J. Goodman

Senior Vice President

Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc.